

## Those Inquisitive Taxpayers

NOT by way of criticism, but only as earnest seekers after information, taxpayers are asking some questions of each other, of themselves, and of The Herald, with regard to the proposal to issue \$200,000 of county bonds for diking 16 miles of river bank below the city. So far as The Herald is concerned, the proposed bond issue would add only about \$50 or \$75 per year to its taxes, and these gentlemen are all good friends of ours and we should not hesitate to spend that much on cigars or dinners for them, or even colored socks and boiled shirts, if we had to go in debt to do it, because their company is worth a lot, and we like to see them all happy and contented. So when it comes to paying \$50 or \$75 a year to them for the purpose of making their lands worth more, we shouldn't make very much of a row over it, but just charge up the amount happily and even gaily, to account of "Public donations," or "Charity," or "Club dues," or "Good will," and feel well repaid. But The Herald cannot turn off the insistent inquiries of taxpayers in any such friendly and lighthearted way, and it is bound to give them a hearing—the 6000 or 7000 taxpayers who would have a share in paying for the \$200,000 levee under the guise of a road.

Some of the questions that have been fired at us are:  
How many individual land owners in the valley would be directly benefited?  
What are their names?  
How much land does each own?  
When did they buy it?  
What price per acre did they pay for it?  
How many acres did they think they were buying?  
How many acres do the deeds call for?  
Did they know when they bought it, that it was bottom land subject to overflow?

Has there been any accretion since they bought it?  
At what price per acre do they value their land now for selling purposes?  
At what price per acre do they value their land now for taxation purposes?  
At what price per acre would they value their land after the \$200,000 levee were built at public expense under the guise of a road?  
How many people would the proposed levee-road really benefit?  
Would it be a short cut to Yaleta?  
Hasn't it been said, and well understood, all along that after the dam is well under way, say in three years more, danger from floods will be avoided or greatly abated?

Is it reasonable to spend \$200,000 to protect undeveloped lands for three years or so from a river which may not have a serious flood in that time, and almost certainly will not overflow after the dam is built?  
Would the scenery along the almost dry river bed (carrying the outflow from the sewage disposal station) be fine enough to make the \$200,000 levee-road a favorite scenic drive?

Can't some of the overflow and bottom land up the river in the neighborhood of Courthouse and above there to the state line, be reclaimed in the same way? It would cost only about \$200,000 to bring in a lot of valuable bottom land up the river valley, owned, optioned, or covetously eyed by certain persons. Wouldn't this down-valley levee-road be a valuable precedent to some others not wholly out of sympathy with the proposers of this project and the objects of the meeting?

If, as one of the principal speakers at the chamber of commerce meeting said, the cost of the proposed dike, if borne by individual owners, would be "more than the land is worth," does it look like good business to spend \$100 of public money to protect or reclaim each \$75 worth or \$90 worth of private land?

Why is it necessary for the city to tax itself to build 16 miles of levee-road, at a cost of \$200,000 when two miles, or three at most, would protect every foot of the city's waterfront?

When the whole city of El Paso was threatened by overflow, private property (the railroads) was made to bear the greater part of the cost of the protecting levee; why is there now no proposal to require the property owners directly interested in the proposed \$200,000 valley land protective levee, to share its cost?

If only 20 owners of valley land were interested enough in the purposes of the proposed \$200,000 bond issue to attend the meeting, what is the interest of the other 6000 or 7000 taxpayers in the county who must be taxed to carry out the plan?

Are any of those present at the meeting willing to sell their bottom land today for the price they paid for it, plus 10 percent for each year they have held it?

Inasmuch as the lands in question have been there for some time, why is it necessary to rush through a \$200,000 bond issue to protect these lands with a levee in the guise of a public road, within the next 30 days?

Just what is the public purpose of the proposed \$200,000 bond issue—or has it a public purpose?

Is it proper and legal to do by indirection and subterfuge what cannot be done directly?

How would the portion of the \$200,000 levee lying between East El Paso and Socorro, some 14 miles, help to protect the city of El Paso from destructive floods?

While building the proposed \$200,000 levee, would it not be possible to set it out in the river a little way, enclose and reclaim some more bottom land now under water or subject to occasional overflow like that which it is now proposed to dike, and give the newly acquired land thus built up out of the river, to the Sunshine society as an endowment for a home for the feeble minded?

Now all these questions are asked by the taxpayers merely in order to elicit information upon which to act. The taxpayers want that levee and that new road, if they can just satisfy themselves that it will be worth, to them, what its cost represents, and that there is no cheaper way to give the boys a good profit on their land purchases. The Herald will print bona fide answers to the taxpayers' questions, free of charge.

The article on "wide open El Paso" printed on pages one and seven of today's Herald was written by the editor-in-chief, and the opinions he expresses therein are believed to express also the sentiments of a majority of El Paso's citizenship. The Herald is of course prepared to substantiate the truth of its statements of fact.

The fact that a \$30,000 playhouse is being built for a rich man's son leads Aaron Hoffman to remark that "workhouses is what most of them need."

The Kansas legislature is considering a bill to compel restaurateurs who serve hash to print on their bill of fare the true contents of the stuff. But who would eat hash if he knew what was in it?

## One-Sentence Philosophy

### JOURNAL ENTRIES.

(Topeka Journal.)

Anybody who tries to be popular generally isn't.

Too much play will get just as tiresome as too much work.

A rare human is one who is satisfied occasionally with the weather.

Putting on a good front is all right if you have something substantial behind it.

### REFLECTIONS OF A BACHELOR.

(New York Press.)

A man can be prouder over beating somebody at what than over endowing a hospital.

Nothing seems harder than to get the children off to school, except to get their father off to business.

Shout a sermon and it will not be heard beyond the church door; whisper a scandal and it will echo around the world.

A widow gets along so well with men because she has learned how to conceal her real opinions of them.

The great secret of keeping an automobile is how you can be out riding in it when creditors walk to the house to try to collect their bills.

After spending three days getting everything ready to make a window open without jamming, a man can always send for a carpenter to do it.

### QUAKER MEDITATIONS.

(Philadelphia Record.)

Distance lends enchantment to the view, even in the case of great men.

Few of us ever have an opportunity of looking a gift horse in the mouth.

To be weighed in the social scale it seems necessary to have a cash balance.

In the old days of witchcraft they had some difficulty in telling which from tother.

Man wants but little here below, generally a little more than he will ever get.

Would you say that the people who never pay their bills dwell in the land of promise?

The women who write learned dissertations on how to live on \$6 a week never have to do it.

Some men can mind their own business about as successfully as they can refrain from giving advice.

Some men are so lazy that the devil is taxed to his utmost ingenuity to find work for their idle hands to do.

Newlyweds—"I always pity an old bachelor." "Cynical—"Yes, he has no wife to blame things on, poor fellow!"

Occasionally you run across one of those cheerful individuals who never borrow trouble in spite of the fact that they borrow everything else.

## UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

A H, BREAKFAST is a cheerful meal, with sausage sizzling from the pan, and when I've eaten it I feel a nobler and a better man! The sausage basely is maligned by jesters lost in mental fogs, who cannot lift the sordid mink from thoughts of vagrant oats and dogs. When I view the smoking link of sausage, flanking buckwheat piles, I float on pleasant dreams and think of snowy pigs in various isles. The pigs from which the sausage came were surely washed in sparkling rills; each wore a garland on its frame, and fed on daisies and daffodils. Each pig was nurtured on delights and breathed a soft scented air; 'twas killed with sacrificial rites, and ground and stuffed by damsel fair, And Araby the blest was raked for spices pure, without alloy; and when at last 'twas linked or caked, I ate it with a whoop of joy. I have no heart to sing the rose, the lily or pomegranate sweet; the smell of sausage hits my nose, and you'll excuse me while I eat.

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## The Daily Horoscope By T. K. Hedrick

The "Gink" Says:

January 11



Another well-balanced day, with more tendency toward action than was manifest yesterday. It is not yet time for the "big game," however. Libra is still weighing men and measures. It is a "try-out" or elimination period. You should find profitable employment in making preliminary tests of your plans, discarding what is unfit and superfluous, and perfecting what is worthy. The positions of the planets and zodiacal signs indicate unusual clarity of mental vision, and soundness of judgment. The things to guard against are irritability and succumbing to petty annoyances. Keep an even temper, be slow to wrath and quick to forgive, and you will be in harmony with the eternal forces of good that are powerful to accomplish your dearest wishes if you join with them.

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## COST OF LIVING HAS INCREASED LARGELY IN A FEW YEARS. WHY?

Various Contentions and Certain Facts Bearing on the Case to Be Illuminated in These Columns.

BY FREDERIC J. HASKIN

(Continued from Page One.)

that the farmer worked for years and years for nothing, and that only within the past few years has he received a fair return upon his investment and for his labor. He insists that even with the great increase in the prices of his products, the farmer is not responsible to any large degree for the cost of living to the city man.

He points out, for instance, that the average price of milk to the city consumer is 100 percent greater than the price the farmer gets for it. Likewise the farmer raises poultry and realizes only a little more than half of its ultimate price to the consumer. He grows cabbage for less money than the middlemen demand as their profit for handling it. He keeps chickens and produces eggs and gets only 10 percent more out of it than the middleman between him and the consumer. The consumer pays 38 percent more for his beef, according to a recent survey, than the farmer gets for it. The price realized by the farmer is only a little more than half that paid by the man who buys the steak or the roast.

Reminder Not Getting Rich. On the other hand, the retailer says it is self-evident that he is not growing rich. That this is true in many cases is conceded. The average grocer does such a comparatively small business that even with 50 percent gross profit on his sales, he would not make a fortune after meeting his own increased cost for rent, labor, horse feed and the like. The wholesaler also pleads not guilty, while the railroad insists that it is not responsible.

Many efforts have been made to solve the problem of making commodities cheaper. In some cities, cooperative stores have been established. These, however, usually have been failures. The retailers have refused to patronize wholesalers who would sell to co-operative establishments, consequently the wholesalers have refused to sell to

these stores. In a prominent patriotic club in Washington a number of members got into a discussion on this question. Several retailers were defending the prices charged by the retailer and inquired why it was that if these prices were so high the cooperative stores failed to flourish. One of the retailers rejoined that if the retailers would permit them to buy as advantageously as they bought themselves, the cooperative store would be a great success. The retailer answered that every man had to have a living and there was no justice in the consumer trying to cut the retailer out of his

Pingree Potato Farm. Everyone recalls the famous Pingree potato farms of Michigan city, which were aimed to reduce the cost of potatoes to the laboring man, at the same time cleaning up life lots and developing a taste for civic beauty. The city of Chicago, Illinois, has established a municipal market where producer and consumer may meet and trade.

Just now there is an effort to get together an international commission to study the whole question in its entirety and if this movement succeeds, it will be the first world wide view of the whole problem that ever has been secured. The English investigation by the board of trade is perhaps the most comprehensive that ever has been made. After investigating the problem in all of the principal countries, it concludes that the day's work of the average American brings him more of the comforts of life than that of the average citizen of any principal European country.

Tomorrow—The Price of Meat.

## Abe Martin

14 Years Ago Today  
From The Herald Of  
This Date 1898



Ever notice how chummy competitors in business are when they meet socially? Sendin' your folks away for a few days is just like equipin' a dramatic company.

## DEATHS AND BURIALS

PERCY THOMAS. A message has been received here announcing the death of Percy Thomas, a former El Pasoan, at Santa Fe, N. M. The death of Mr. Thomas occurred Tuesday at 10:30 o'clock at Santa Fe. Thomas was a member of the El Paso lodge of Red Men and was also a Mason. He was the son of Mrs. A. K. Thomas, who has a grocery store on Mesa avenue.

SAMUEL F. STROUSE. The body of Samuel F. Strouse, who died Monday morning of typhoid pneumonia, will be shipped Wednesday night to his former home in Logansport, Ind., for burial. Mrs. Strouse reached town this morning and will accompany the body back to her home. Her train was due Saturday morning, but has been held up on account of the snow above here.

VELMA RADFORD. Velma Radford, the 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. L. Radford, of 2517 Durango street, died Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. The cause of death was bronchial pneumonia. The funeral will be held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the home. Rev. E. B. At-

wood, of Highland Park Baptist church, conducted the service. The interment was at Evergreen cemetery.

A. B. TALLEY. A. B. Talley died Sunday night at 9 o'clock, in a local hospital. Mr. Talley was a healthseeker and was 22 years old. He had been in El Paso but three weeks, coming here in search of health, from Rodgers, Tex. His body will be shipped tonight to Fayetteville, Tenn.

C. O. LOV. C. O. Love, of a local hospital Tuesday morning at 8 o'clock. The funeral arrangements have not been completed. Mr. Love was a well-known railroad man and was formerly traveling fireman for the El Paso & Southern.

INEZ LIVINGSTON. Inez Livingston, 4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Livingston, died of scarlet fever at 3 o'clock Wednesday morning. The funeral was held this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the chapel at 708 North Stanton street.

WILLIAM A. PRIEST. William A. Priest died at a local sanitarium Tuesday morning at 11:35 o'clock. He was a healthseeker. His body was shipped Tuesday night to Denver, Colo.

## DEMING AND MIMBRES VALLEY

## EL PASO MAN TO EQUIP WELL IN MIMBRES VALLEY; DEMING WATER COMPANY AWARDS WELL CONTRACT

Deming, N. M., Jan. 10.—Paul Heermans, of El Paso, is in Deming for the purpose of seeing after the equipment of his well near Iola with an engine and irrigation pump. The well drillers have just finished this well, having encountered splendid water producing gravel. The well is 127 feet deep with 20 feet of gravel formation which furnishes a splendid flow of water. Mr. Heermans will install a large pump and engine, and irrigate a considerable acreage the coming year.

The firm of Rhee & Rhee, well drillers, has completed an irrigation well for G. L. Beall, three miles south of town, which will furnish 500-gallons per minute. Mr. Beall will purchase and have installed in the near future a pumping plant large enough to take care of the output of the well. He expects to get 50 acres into cultivation during the coming season.

The remains of Robt. C. Wren, who died at Nogales, Ariz., three days ago, were brought to Deming Tuesday, and the interment took place at the Deming cemetery Tuesday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Awards Contract for Well. The Deming Water company has let a contract for a new well of 1000-gallons per minute capacity, and work will be begun on this same in the near future. The growth of Deming within the past year has rendered the water company's supply insufficient and the new well is to be put down to meet this increased demand.

Geo. D. Ooon, a prominent fruit man of the lower Pecos valley, has just pur-

The Deming office of the El Paso Herald is in the Chamber of Commerce. Roy Bedichek is agent and correspondent.

The Herald's distributor in Deming is C. C. Rogers, room 2, Deckert building, telephone 212. The Herald will be delivered to all parts of the city same night of publication, at 60 cents per month.

chased a relinquishment two miles southeast of Hondo, and expects to put the same into fruit.

W. R. Nendick, of Albuquerque, is here to establish a battery and clothes cleaning business. He has ordered his equipment shipped here from Kansas City, but has not as yet secured a location for his business.

Roland Howell and H. A. W. Marard, of Denver, Colo., are here to make a demonstration to Mimbre valley farmers and fruit growers of the possibilities of blasting for fruit trees. They went to the place of A. L. Taylor, who has just put out a large orchard eight miles southwest. They will make their demonstration near town, and hope to show the value of their method of putting out fruit trees to the Mimbre valley.

Come to Stay.

Robt. S. Spears and family have arrived from West Plains, Mo. Mr. Spears having bought property here some time ago. They have come this time to stay. In company with Mr. Spears is Jas. W. Perkins, also of West Plains, and he has also purchased land in this vicinity.

into "the" residential section of the city. The land mostly lies directly east of old Fort Bliss.

Among the plans connected with the materialization of this project, is the formation of a \$100,000 corporation to extend the electric street car tracks all through this section, running it in a loop line; then the land will be divided into blocks and lots, with the streets laid out, sidewalks and sewers put in, and numbers of well residences probably erected.

The owners in the Fisher survey are the Richard Caples estate and J. P. O'Connor. P. Kern owns extensive property adjoining this. J. J. Mundy owns a large tract. A. Schwartz is interested in the project, and a number of other prominent people are also interested.

COOK TOO COLD TO DO MUCH COOKING

Duluth, Minn., Jan. 10.—Cook, Minn., with a record of 56 below zero, was the coldest place in the country today.

These men report that there are quite a number of farmers from the West Plains country who will be here shortly to become residents of this section.

J. J. Snow, of Hurley, N. M., is here investigating conditions in Deming and vicinity with a view to locating a pecking works here.

R. E. Cameron went to El Paso on business.

W. E. Barnes of the S. P. company, was in Deming on business.

Geo. Carpenter has bought a relinquishment 18 miles south of Deming from Dr. Ray.

Rev. A. E. Boyd, Baptist minister at Deming, is conducting a series of revival meetings at Lordsburg this week.

Pat Nunn, Diamond manager at Apache, is in Deming on business.

Call to the business men of Deming has been issued by H. G. Peah, W. E. Holt, C. R. Williamson and A. G. Ballenger to meet at the chamber of commerce this evening for the purpose of hearing W. F. Hammond set forth the merits of the National Association of Retail Merchants of the United States and the New Mexico Retailers' association. J. J. Jeffers will tell briefly of his knowledge and experience with this work in other cities, and E. L. Coleman will address the meeting on the results accomplished by this organization in Oklahoma City. Mr. Hammond is here to organize the merchants and business men of Deming, and incorporate the organization with the national and state organizations.

CHARGE AGED MOTHER WITH KILLING CHILD

Lancaster, Ohio, Jan. 10.—Mrs. Nancy Hall, aged 60 years, mother of 12 year old Ruth Hall, who died December 12, after eating pancakes, was arrested today, charged with having put poison in the cakes. Her husband, W. T. Hall, and two daughters, Bertha and Mary, had been made seriously ill, but are now recovering.

The Hall farm had been heavily mortgaged. Each member of the family carried life insurance, and Mrs. Hall collected \$200 on the death of her daughter.

FRENCH CABINET RESIGNS.

Paris, France, Jan. 10.—The cabinet has resigned.

## A NEW "SWELL" HOME DISTRICT

Land East of Old Fort Bliss and North of El Paso to Be Platted.

If plans materialize that are under discussion, El Paso is to have a new aristocratic residence section especially constructed.

The land north of Alexander's addition, including the 160 acres in the Fisher survey, the Collins survey, the Hunt survey and survey No. 262 and that adjoining, is going to be made

## JOYS AND GLOOMS

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